

Safeguarding Policy

Including standards, code of conduct and reporting procedure (Whistle Blowing)

Safeguarding & Welfare Officer:

Safeguarding Policy

1. Policy statement North Devon Agility Club is committed to prioritising the well-being of all children and adults at risk, promoting safeguarding in our club at all times, including all programmes and events we run. This Policy strives to minimise risk, deliver a positive experience for everyone and respond appropriately to all safeguarding concerns/disclosures.

2. Use of terminology Child: a person under the age of eighteen years. Note that some legislation in Scotland defines a child as a person under sixteen years old. However, where there is any safeguarding concern, anyone under the age of 18 is regarded as a child unless advised otherwise by the Safeguarding Team. Adult at risk of abuse or neglect: a person aged eighteen years or over who is, or may be, in need of community care services by reason of disability, age or illness; and is, or may be, unable to take care of, or unable to protect him or herself against abuse or neglect. Safeguarding children: protecting children from abuse and neglect, preventing the impairment of children's health or development, ensuring that they grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances. Safeguarding adults at risk: protecting adults from abuse and/or neglect. Enabling adults to maintain control over their lives and make informed choices without coercion. Empowering adults at risk, consulting them before taking action, unless someone lacks the capacity to make a decision, or their mental health poses a risk to their own or someone else's safety, in which case, always acting in his or her best interests. (See appendix A for full glossary of terms).

3. Scope This Policy is applicable to all volunteers, committee members and club members. It is in line with national legislation and applicable across the UK. Advice, guidance and support is available from the Safeguarding Team.

4. Responsibility for the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Code of Conduct and Reporting Procedure.

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY: NOT RESPONDING TO A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN IS NOT AN OPTION.

- Our club's committee has overall accountability for this Policy and its implementation
- Our club Welfare Officer is responsible for updating this Policy in line with legislative and club developments
- All individuals involved in/present at the club are required to adhere to the Policy and Code of Conduct
- The individual who is told about, hears, or is made aware of the concern/disclosure is responsible for following the Reporting a Safeguarding Concern Procedure. Unless someone is in immediate danger, they should inform their club Safeguarding/Welfare Officer,
- The club Welfare Officer and Safeguarding Leads are responsible for reporting safeguarding concerns to NDAC Committee.
- The NDAC committee Safeguarding Team is responsible for assessing all safeguarding concern/disclosures that are reported to them and working with the club Welfare Officer and to follow up as appropriate on a case-by-case basis, prioritising the well-being of the child/ adult at risk at all times.

5. Breaches of the Safeguarding Policy, Code of Conduct and Reporting Procedure Breaches of this Policy and/or failure to comply with the outlined responsibilities may result in the following:

- Disciplinary action leading to possible exclusion from the club, dismissal and legal action

6. Related Policies & Guidance

Diversity & Inclusion Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy

Online Safety and Social Media Policy Photography and Filming of Children/Adults at risk

Transport Policy

7. Whistleblowing

Safeguarding children and adults at risk requires everyone to be committed to the highest possible standards of openness, integrity and accountability. As a club, we are committed to encouraging and maintaining a culture where people feel able to raise a genuine safeguarding concern and are confident that it will be taken seriously.

What is whistle blowing?

In the context of safeguarding, “whistle blowing” is when someone raises a concern about the well-being of a child or an adult at risk. A whistle blower may be:

- a club member/volunteer
- trainer
- a parent
- a member of the public.

How to raise a concern about a child or an adult at risk at the club:

If a child or an adult at risk is in immediate danger or risk of harm, the police should be contacted by calling 999.

Where a child or an adult at risk is not in immediate danger, any concerns about their wellbeing should be made without delay to the Club Welfare Officer at the earliest opportunity and the relevant local authority and the police will be contacted, where appropriate.

If, however, the whistle blower does not feel comfortable raising a concern with the Club Welfare Officer, the whistle blower should contact a member of the committee.

The whistle blower should provide as much information as possible regarding the incident or circumstance which has given rise to the concern, including:

- their name and contact details (unless they wish to remain anonymous);
- names of individuals involved
- date, time and location of incident/circumstance; and
- whether any witnesses were present.

What happens next?

All concerns raised by a whistle blower about the well-being of a child or an adult at risk will be taken seriously and every effort will be made to deal with each concern fairly, quickly and proportionately

If the whistle blower does not believe that the concern has been dealt with appropriately and wishes to speak to someone outside the club or the LTA Safeguarding Team, the NSPCC Whistleblowing advice line should be contacted on 0800 028 0285 or by emailing

help@nspcc.org.uk.

Support The club will not tolerate any harassment, victimisation or unfair treatment of, and will take appropriate action to protect whistle blowers when they raise a concern in good faith.